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INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 001633

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

EUR/UMB FOR JOSEPH WANG AND EUR/ERA FOR RACHEL WOLFE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BO](#) [GR](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: Greece Supports EU Renewal of Belarus Sanctions and Suspension

REF: STATE 112644

CLASSIFIED BY: Alan Purcell, Acting Political Counselor; REASON:  
1.4(B), (D)

¶11. (C) PolOff met November 10 with Vassilis Tselios, Deputy Head of the C1 EU External Relations Directorate, to discuss a coordinated Belarus sanctions policy. Tselios - the Greek MFA's point person for EU- Eastern partner affairs - noted that Greece does not have an embassy in Minsk and therefore relies on information trickling in from international organizations such as the OSCE and EU for an assessment of the current conditions in country. Given the current lack of improvement or reform on the part of Belarus, Tselios said Greece is in favor of the status quo sanctions measures and therefore will support the renewal of the sanctions against Belarus and also the renewal of the suspension of these sanctions. In his calculation, this combination will continue to create the right amount of leverage for encouraging Belarus to enact reforms and demonstrate respect for human rights and the rule of law. Tselios estimated that the EU consensus decision on the issue would also be to renew both sanctions and the suspension of sanctions against Belarus through October 2010.

Speckhard